

HISTORY OF WASATCH COUNTY

In the same year that the 13 colonies revolted against English rule and signed the Declaration of Independence, the first white men traveled through Wasatch valley. At least this is the earliest recorded date of any visit by white men through this region.

Two Franciscan friars, Francisco Antanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante, the famed Father Escalante who explored Utah, started from Santa Fe for the purpose of discovering a direct route to Monterey, California, site of one of their largest missions. They began their journey in July, 1776.

According to descriptions of their journal, they passed through what is now Colorado. They crossed into what is now Utah near White river. The best interpretation of their journal claims they followed Green river for some distance, crossed over to the Du-chesne river and followed probably what was the west fork, crossing the mountain at the head of Lake canyon and coming down through Wasatch valley and Provo river to Utah lake.

White trappers undoubtedly traversed the valley in later years, but it was not until 1858, less than a dozen years after the first Mormons came west, that permanent homes and settlers came to Wasatch valley.

This first settlement in 1858 was sparse, limited to less than half a dozen homes in the lower end of the valley. From the journal of John Crook, self-appointed historian and one of the first men ever to settle here, we learn that William M. Wall, George W. Bean, William Meeks, Aaron Daniels and others brought stock and grazed it in the summer of 1858, and also started the construction of ranch homes. Mr. Crook's journal says: "William M. Wall built a ranch at the south end of the valley, Father Decker bought the ranch, later known as John Brown's home, Aaron Daniels built a ranch house about two miles north of Daniels, on what later became known as Meeks Bottoms. All of the above parties I think kept some stock through the winter in the valley."

The journal says Father Decker "bought" a place, which would lead one to believe he did not settle that first year of 1858 because there would have been no places to buy from anyone. Several old settlers agree that Wall, Meeks and Daniels were the first men to build homes here. Mr.

Crook's journal does not make this point entirely clear, and there is little else written on the subject that could be considered authoritative.

While these ranchers were building homes in the summer and fall of 1858, two survey parties of Provo men, headed by J. C. Snow, visited the valley twice, one in July and once in October, and surveyed two tracts in the north and central portions of the valley, dividing them into 20-acre tracts and planning all the surveyed plots. They did not settle, however, returning to Utah valley that fall. It is recorded that he froze half an inch thick in the water cups of the July surveying party one night. The party claimed over 100 tracts before summer's end.

Next year, in the spring of 1859 a group of Provo men, one of whom was Mr. Crook, started for Wasatch valley, then known as Provo valley, to settle there. The party included, besides Mr. Crook, Charles N. Carroll, Thomas Russell, John Jordan, John Carline, Sr., James Carline, Mr. Carpenter, whose first name was not designated, Jesse Bond, Henry Chaivan and William Giles. On the last day of April they started for the valley, taking their wagons apart and carrying them piece by piece over a huge snowslide in Provo canyon. The next day they traveled to William Wall's ranch and reached it the first day of May, 1859.

Mr. Crook's journal of the trip continues: "Early the next morning we crossed the river and after traveling for about two miles we arrived at Daniels' ranch, where we crossed the creek on ice. We journeyed on about a mile further to Meeks' ranch, turned our teams out to feed and concluded to have breakfast. After breakfast was over, we started out on foot in a northerly direction to look out a suitable place for the location of our camp. We found it very difficult to cross Center Creek and Lake Creek because of the drifts of snow which lay in the willows along the banks. In a few hours we arrived at the plat of ground designated for a city; off the ground, and concluded to near the place were John M. Murdock's dwelling house now in looking around for a good camping place, we concluded to move our wagons next day to the present tense, it should, what is now known as the Lone-Lites moved down on the fort line

compiled and written from his journal for the first issues of the Wasatch Wave, in 1889, and it is from there this is taken. First Soil Turned

In looking north we saw two dark objects moving along and after gazing intently for some time we saw that they were moving backwards and forwards. The idea struck us that it was some parties plowing so off we started to follow them. The problem in drawing near to the objects we found our conclusions to be correct. The first man we reached was William Davidson, with two yoke of cattle and plowing on the twenty acres of land now owned by John Turner in the north field. The other team of two yoke of cattle belonged to Robert Breadhead and James Davis. They were plowing on a piece of ground, on inquiry they told us they had been in the valley about two weeks; but on account of a big snow storm now plowing had been done until the day before, which was the first day of May. I think this was the first soil turned over with a plow in the valley. These parties had come from Salt Creek or Nophi-jah country."

From Mr. Crook's journal, it seems evident that William Wall, Aaron Daniels and William Meeks built the first ranch homes in 1858, and that William Davidson, Robert Breadhead and James Davis were the first farmers in the valley, coming about the middle of April and turning over the first land although Mr. Crook's party of 10 followed them by only two weeks.

Mr. Crook's journal continues: "They were plowing inside of the one and one-half mile square plat of land surveyed the preceding July. This plat of land being already claimed, and our party not feeling desirous of jumping any one's claim, concluded to examine further on up the river. We traveled on about half a mile and found the north line of stakes of said plat, and found some good land just north of it. So we went to work and staked off twenty acres each as near as we could be ascertained by stepping stones, in commencing plowing immediately. In looking around for a good camping place, we concluded to move our wagons next day to the present tense, it should, what is now known as the Lone-Lites moved down on the fort line

immediately and commenced to build a large whickup of poles, covering it with willows, long wheat grass and dirt. I have known as many as 30 persons crowded in there of a night. Being a mammoth affair, it was hence the name London Whickup. The moving and building occupied about two days, and I think on the fifth of May, Thomas Rasmund and myself, having only one yoke of cattle each, joined our teams and commenced plowing."

The party of 10 was predominantly English, hence the name London creek and London spring. It runs today about two miles north of town. The area was also known as New London by many settlers.

Daughter Named Timpanogos The family of William Davidson was believed to be the first family to settle in the valley. His daughter, which he named Timpanogos after the mountain, was the first white child born in the valley.

About May 20 of the same summer the settlers arrived, 1859, some of the 10 men returned to Provo for grain and supplies, and were accompanied on their return by quite a number of new settlers, among them Thomas H. Giles, Hyrum Oaks, Martin Oaks, Sydney Espenson and others. About the last of May another party arrived. More land was surveyed, and parties came and went all summer long acquiring ground. In some stayed to settle, and the growth and development of Wasatch valley had begun. The townsite of Heber was surveyed this same summer.

An account is contained in Mr. Crook's journal. "Sometime about the middle of June Leupny Surveyo, Jesse Fuller commenced to survey the plat of land that had been left for a town site, the starting point being George W. Cline's corner. Charles N. Carroll and John and John Crook were chain bearers. The survey was run on the west line of Main street for eight blocks; thence west five and a half blocks; thence north eight blocks north to the north field line of survey.

"This section of land was staked off in blocks and lots at this time, the east part of the city some two months later. A forty lot laid off at this time. Some parties moved down on the fort line

year, and ripened earlier in the season. The settlers built a double log house, 20 by 40 feet, with a dirt roof, which they used for a dwelling house and school. It was completed enough to hold their Pioneer Day celebration. In it on July 24.

William Meeks, who has served as presiding elder until now, resigned in the fall of 1860 and William Wall was chosen to replace him. He was herding cattle in Round valley, later known as Wallsburg, and came to Heber to accept the position. He chose James Laird and John M. Murdock.

The fort lines were all filled up by the fall of 1860, with two families to the four rods formerly allotted one, in many instances. There were over 40 families in (Continued on another page)



Best Wishes
For A Joyous Season

Again we extend the
Season's Greetings to
each of you. May this
Christmas be your most
prosperous.



Clarence Olson

HISTORY OF WASATCH COUNTY

THE WASATCH WAVE

Christmas Edition

In the same year that the 13 colonies revolted against English rule and signed the Declaration of Independence, the first white man traveled through Wasatch valley. At least, this is the earliest recorded date of any visit by white men through this region. Two Franciscan friars, Francisco Arriaga and Dominguez, the famed Father Escalante who explored the Valley de Escalante, the famed Utah, started from Santa Fe for the purpose of discovering a direct route to Monterey, California, site of one of their largest missions. They began their journey in July, 1776.

According to descriptions of their journal, they passed through the valley that fall. It is recorded that the twenty acres of land now owned by John Turner in the north field. The other team of the twenty acres of land now owned by William Davidson, with two parties plowing so off we started about two days, and I think on the city lot on the block now occupied by the old filling office. Good crops of grain were raised and that first summer in 1859, at least some was lost in a September storm. Most of it was harvested, however. Jesse McCarrall and company brought the first threshing machine from Provo that fall. Settlement spread to the west side of the valley that summer. The family of William Davidson, daughter near the mouth of Snake Creek. Peter Shirts began construction of a saw mill at the mouth of Snake Creek. "There were," Mr. Crook wrote, "17 families in Heber the winter of 1859-60. There were also some families at Midway."

About May 20 of the same summer the first white child born in the panogos after the mountain, was the first white child born in the valley. The family of William Davidson was believed to be the first family to settle in the valley. The daughter which he named Thomas, was the first child born in the valley. The first white child born in the valley. The first white child born in the valley.

White trappers undoubtedly traversed the valley in later years, but it was not until 1858, less than a dozen years after the first Mormons came west, that permanent homes and settlers came to Wasatch valley. This first settlement in 1858 was sparse, limited to less than half a dozen homes in the lower end of the valley. From the journal of John Crook, self-appointed and of the valley. The next day they traveled to William Wall's ranch and reached it the first day of May, 1859.

Mr. Crook's journal of the trip continues: "Early the next morning we crossed the river and after traveling for about two miles we arrived at Daniel's ranch, where we crossed the creek on ice. We found the one and one-half mile square of land surveyed the previous June. The survey was run on the Charles N. Carroll and John Crook's claim, concluded to examine further on up the river. We traveled on about half a mile and found the north line of stakes of said plat, and found some good land just north of it. So we went to work and staked off twenty acres each as near as possible to the north line of survey. This section of land was staked off in blocks and lots at this time, the east part of the city lot, the east part of the city lot, the east part of the city lot.

"The journal says Father Decker bought the winter in the valley. I think kept some stock through later became known as Meekes Bottom. All of the above parties of our camp. We found it very difficult to cross Center Creek, a suitable place for the location of our camp. We found it very difficult to cross Center Creek, a suitable place for the location of our camp. We found it very difficult to cross Center Creek, a suitable place for the location of our camp.

Donald's spring. After moving we immediately and commenced to build. John W. With, I think, put a log house, 20 by 40 feet, with a dirt roof, which they used for a meeting house and school. It was completed enough to hold their year, and ripened earlier in the season. The settlers built a double house, 20 by 40 feet, with a dirt roof, which they used for a meeting house and school. It was completed enough to hold their year, and ripened earlier in the season.

William Meekes, who has served as president ever since now, resigned in the fall of 1860 and was chosen to replace him. He was herding cattle in Round valley, later known as Wallaburg, and came to Heber to accept the position. He chose James Laid and John M. Murray as his counselors. The north and west roads were now closed in nearly to the river by a five-foot worm fence. The settlers were all filled up by the fall of 1860, with two families to the four roads formerly allotted one, in many instances. There were over 40 families in the valley that fall.

Some boys and girls came up from Provo Christmas week on a visit and had a good time," Mr. Crook wrote. "When they returned we felt lonesome. About 18 inches of snow lay on the ground that winter. During the winter months William Meekes and other men went up Center Creek canyon and brought out lumber for sawmill. They began sawing in the fall of 1860, and Mr. Crook claims this was the first sawmill in the valley. Mr. Shirts later completed his mill at Snake Creek and was the second mill in operation."

An account is contained in Mr. Crook's journal. "The starting point for a town site, the starting point for a town site, the starting point for a town site. The starting point for a town site, the starting point for a town site. The starting point for a town site, the starting point for a town site.

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more than doubling the previous man with them. Crops were good in 1860, saw good fortune. The occupation of Wasatch valley, the east part of the city lot, the east part of the city lot, the east part of the city lot.



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Surveyors Made While those ranchers were building homes in the summer and fall of 1858, two survey parties of P'ovo men, headed by J. C. Snow, visited the valley twice. One in July and once in October, and surveyed two tracts in the north and central portions of the valley, dividing them into 20 the-acre tracts and claiming all the surveyed plots. They did not settle, however, returning to Utah in the fall. It is recorded that the first winter half an inch thick in the water cups of the July surveying party one night. The party claimed over 100 tracts before summer's end.

in the spring of 1859

crossed the river and after traveling for about two miles we arrived at Daniels' ranch, where we crossed on about a mile further to reach an old trail. Daniels, McMeek's ranch, turned our teams over to feed and concluded to have breakfast. After breakfast, however, we started out on foot in a southerly direction to look out for a suitable place for the location of our camp. We found it very difficult to cross Center Creek and Lake Creek because of the drifts of snow which lay in the

The journal says Father Decker "bought" a place, which would lead one to believe he did not settle that first year of 1838 because there would have been no money from anyone. Nevertheless, Mr. Crock makes reference to the present tense, it should be remembered this account was

in observing them we saw two dark objects moving along and after gazing intently for some time we saw that they were moving backwards and forwards. The idea struck us that it was some parties plowing; so off we started to fathom the problem: in drawing near to the objects we found our conjectures to be correct. The first man we reached was William Davidson, with two yokes of cattle and plowing on the twenty acres of land now owned by John Turner in the north field. The other team of two yokes of cattle belonged to Robert Broadhead and James Davison. They were plowing on a piece of ground due east of William Davidson's. The second team was pulling a mammoth affair; it was christened the London wildcat, hence the name London Spring. The moving and building occupied about two days, and I think on the fifth of May, Thomas Rassand and myself, having only one yoke of cattle each, joined our teams and commenced plowing. The party of 10 was predominantly English, hence the name London creek and London spring. It runs today about two miles north of town. The area was also known as New London by many settlers.

Daughter Named Timpnogos.
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Acron Daniels and William Meeks built the first ranch homes in 1898, and that William Davidson, Brodhead, and James Davis were the first to build in the hills about the middle of April, and turning over the land to the state. The first party of 10 followed them by only a year.

two weeks. Crook's journal continues: "They were plowing inside of the one and one-half mile square plat of land surveyed the preceding July. This plat of land being already claimed, and our party not feeling desirous of our jumping any one's claim, concluded to examine further on up the river. We traveled on about half a mile and found the north line of a stake of said plat, and found some good land just north of it. So we went to work and staked this same summer.

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This section of land was staked off by the soldiers from the best part of the city some two months later. A fort to line forty rods square, was also laid off at this time. Some parties moved down on the fort line from the spring branch, or John Mc-

The fort was fifty rods square, four rods being allowed for each family. William Davidson, one of the first three settlers, built his city lot on the block now occupied by the old tiding office. Good crops of grain were raised the first summer. In 1889, although some was lost in a September storm, most of it was harvested, however. Jesse McCracken, James T. and John M. (Continued on another page)


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For A Joyous Season

uneventful, as far as major happenings were concerned. December was clear and cold, and everyone hauled their wood from the canyons.

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number for sawmill. They began sawing in the fall of 1860, and Mr. Crook claims this was the first sawmill in the valley. Mr. Smith's later completed his mill at Snake Creek and was the second mill in operation.

"About the middle of March, 1860, a number of families arrived from Provo, among whom were Zerita Palmer, T. G. Gilles, George Gilles, Frederick Gilles, Jonathan Carlie, Jesse Bond, Jonathan Clegg and others whom I do not remember. Parties kept arriving from the States and Utah country

Clarence Olson

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